

To the Right Honourable the Lord Maior,

Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London* in Common Councell Assembled.

The Humble Petition of divers Well-affected Houſholders and Freemen of the ſaid City,

S H E W E T H,



That your Petitioners cannot but thankfully acknowledge the Juſt and Prudent Reſolution of this Honourable Councel, expreſſed in your Declaration of the 20th of *December* laſt paſt; And are unſhakenly Confident, that that God who put your thoughts and Councels on the Reſolve, will ſtrengthen your Courage in proſecuting of thoſe Lawfull means that may lead to the attainment of that juſt and neceſſary end *A Free Parliament*, without which the undoubted Birthright of the Engliſh Nation, in their Perſons, Eſtates, and all Liberties, both Religious and Civil, can never be preſerved: And ſhould this Court ſubmit themſelves to any other Conſtitution of men, then ſuch as may Rightfully claim the Legislative power of the Nation, and by acting on any other Authority in Aſſeſſing or Levying any ſumms of Money on your Petitioners Eſtates, your Petitioners humbly conceive that this Court ſhall give the whole Nation cauſe of very ſad Reflections on your defection from your ſaid Declaration, with which the moſt part of the other Countries and Corporations have freely concurred: And your Petitioners may have occaſion to complain, that they have moſt unhappily been caſt into the world in a Generation that hath at once made a coſtly purchaſe of preſent miſery to themſelves, and perpetual ſlavery to their poſterity.

And therefore your Petitioners humbly pray, That it may pleaſe this Honourable Court to Act worthy of your Predeceſſors, and Your own profeſſed Reſolutions, by Declaring to the World, or at leaſt aſſuring your Petitioners, That you will not Act your ſelves, or conſent that any other Power or Perſon ſhall Impoſe any Law or Tax upon any of thoſe Citizens, with whoſe general Concernments this Court is Intruſted, untill the Authoritie thereof may be derived from a *Full and Free Parliament*, as being the rightfull Representatives of the people, by whom every individual doth conſent. By which, and which onlie, next under God, Your Petitioners can rationally hope their languiſhing Trades may be revived, and their Hearts and Purſes together enlarged to a chearfull and liberal Contribution towards their lawfull Government and Protection, According to *Magna Charta* and the *Petition of Right*.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray, &c.

This Petition was preſented by divers Citizens of quality the 8th of *February*, 1659.

The Answer whereunto was,

That the Court had read this Petition, and will take the ſame into Conſideration ſo far as concerns this Court: And did give the Petitioners the Thanks of the Court for their reſpects and patience.